

# Family Church Membership Covenant

Our Membership Covenant is the document that all members sign to express their commitment to this local body of believers and their desire to pursue the Lord together. The covenant clarifies the biblical obligations of the members and the church to each other. Our hope is that it serves as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.

The covenant is birthed out of our love for the church body and its individual members whom we hope will experience the fullness of joy which is found in the presence of the Lord. The primary purpose of this covenant is to serve as a teaching document with three functions:

- To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the elders and pastors of Family Church and the individual members to the Family Church body.
- To establish teaching and doctrinal parameters for the Family Church body.
- To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.

Each of these functions is in accordance with the covenant's overall vision to provide an accessible explanation of the Scriptures in hopes that Family Church would grow in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

## Obligation of Family Church Leadership to its members:

- We covenant that your elders, pastors and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures ([1 Timothy 3:1-13](#); [5:17-22](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit ([Acts 20:28](#); [1 Peter 5:1-5](#)).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service ([Ephesians 4:11-13](#)) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick ([James 5:14](#)).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture ([Acts 20:27-28](#); [Galatians 6:6](#); [1 Timothy 5:17-18](#)).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teaching ([Acts 20:28-31](#)).
- We covenant to lovingly exercise church discipline when necessary for the purpose of restoring you to God and to the Church ([Matthew 18:15-20](#); [1 Corinthians 5](#); [Galatians 6:1](#)).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members ([1 Corinthians 11:1](#); [Philippians 3:17](#); [1 Timothy 4:12](#)).

## My obligation to Family Church as a member:

- I have read and understood the Family Church doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#); [Hebrews 13:7, 17](#)).
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues ([Psalm 119](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, serving inside and outside the church, and a life that glorifies Jesus ([Psalm 105:1-2](#); [Psalm 119:97](#); [Acts 2:42-47](#); [Hebrews 10:23-25](#); [2 Peter 1:3](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-22](#)). We also strongly urge all members to be active in a Life Group.

I will follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the sacred practices (sacraments) prescribed to His Church:

- By being baptized after my conversion ([Romans 6:3-5](#); [Matthew 3:13-16](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#)).
- By remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion ([1 Corinthians 11:24-29](#); [Matthew 26:26-28](#))

I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure ([Proverbs 3:9-10](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#); [Galatians 5:22-26](#); [Ephesians 4:1-16](#); [5:15-18](#)). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary ([Romans 12:1-8](#); [2 Corinthians 8-9](#); [12:7-31](#); [1 Peter 4:10-11](#)).

I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family ([Hebrews 13:17](#)).

I covenant to protect the unity of my church ([Philippians 2:2](#); [Colossians 3:14](#))

I covenant to support, pray for and submit to the Elders, Pastors and leadership of Family Church. ([Hebrews 13:17](#); [Ephesians 1:22-23](#)).

I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise ([Psalm 141:5](#); [Matthew 18:15-17](#); [1 Corinthians 5:1-5](#); [2 Corinthians 2:5-8](#); [Galatians 6:1-5](#); [1 Timothy 5:20](#); [2 Timothy 2:25](#); [Titus 1:9](#); [3:10-11](#); [Hebrews 12:5-11](#); [Revelation 2:5-7, 14-25](#)).

I covenant, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Believers should strive to put all sinful actions and attitudes to death, while stirring and stimulating good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of sinful actions addressed in the Scriptures:

- I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual, monogamous marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication ([Job 31:1](#); [Proverbs 5](#); [Romans 13:12-14](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-7:16](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#));
- I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at Family Church instead of pursuing divorce from my spouse ([Matthew 19:1-12](#); [Mark 10:1-12](#); [Luke 16:18](#); [1 Corinthians 7:10-11](#))
- I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates ([1 Corinthians 8:7](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [Ephesians 5:18](#); [James 3:3-18](#)).

I covenant to refrain from activities that the Bible would deem foolish ([Romans 14:14-23](#)).

I covenant to do the following when I sin:

- Confess my sins to God and fellow believers.
- Repent and seek to put my sin to death ([Romans 8:13](#); [Colossians 3:5](#); [James 5:16](#))
- To submit to the Elders and other appointed leaders of the church and be diligent in striving for unity and peace within the Church ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#); [Hebrews 13:17](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#))

## **My commitment to the vision and mission of Family Church:**

### **Family Church Vision Statement**

*"To whole-heartedly participate in God's mission to redeem people and restore His kingdom to His world through Jesus Christ."*

### **Family Church Mission Statement**

*"To CONNECT people to Jesus Christ and to one another – to GROW in the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Love – to SERVE others in Christ-like humility."*

# Family Church Membership Covenant

## Member Agreement Form

I have read the mission statement of Family Church and commit to live out this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus, that my identity would be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with the culture would be for his glory.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Family Church and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the Elders and Pastors of the Church. I accept the responsibility to notify Family Church leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Family Church.

### COVENANT AGREEMENT

Having believed the gospel and thus received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with the Family Church Covenant, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Family Church body.

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New Member Signature

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Date

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Print First and Last Name

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E-mail

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Phone Number

*Please sign and return to Family Church, 2500 Hwy 104, Pine Bluff, AR 71602  
For more information e-mail [membership@familychurch.ws](mailto:membership@familychurch.ws).*